

## National Conference

The program appears the second time on page 15. It will be noted that the Young People's Society and the Sister's Society, as well as all other departments of church work will be well represented. Brother Furry hopes to make the Young People's department an exceedingly interesting one, while the Sisters always have a good program. Our Educational Interests, Publishing Interests, and Our Missions, will, according to the program, receive the attention they deserve. The prospects are that we will have the best conference we have ever had, and it should be your ambition to help make it so.

Among our people are those who do not favor these annual conferences. They are very expensive things we are told. So they are, but is there anything of real worth that is not expensive? Assuming that the church thru its representatives spends \$5,000 to hold one of these conferences, could this amount of money be used to any better purpose? In the first place if the conference would not be held this money would remain where it now is, and would not be available for any other purposes. In the second place if the \$5,000 would be paid into a common treasury what should be done with it? Use it for missionary purposes do you say? But there would be no Mission Board, no Publication Board, no mission either in Chicago or in Washington. We would be unorganized, and worst of all there would be no zeal back of the money and hence it would count for nothing. Aside from the methods of church work planned at these conferences they create a zeal for the several departments of our work that would be utterly lacking without them. The enthusiasm created at these conferences, the interest awakened, is worth all that they cost and more.

## Take Care of the Lambs

It is an old, yet a true saying, "Take care of the cents and the dollars will take care of themselves." This also is true, "Take care of the moments and the hours and days and years will take care of themselves." The thought is that a proper care and regard for little things will insure us the larger things of life. This is an every day experience and observation. Why should not this rule obtain as regards our children? It does. "Take care of the children and the men and women will take care of themselves," is as true a saying as the one in reference to dollars and cents. If saving the cents means the saving of dollars, then the saving of children also means the saving of men and women. "How do you get such beautiful sheep?" was a question put to a farmer. "I take care of the lambs," was the reply. If he had not taken care of the lambs it is doubtful whether he would have had any

sheep to feed. A pastor of many years' experience said, "If I had opportunity to repeat my ministry I would give my chief attention to the young." These are suggestive thoughts, not for the ministry only, but for parents, church officers, Sunday school teachers, and all who have to do with young people. We must not despair with old people. It is possible to lead them to Christ, but it is not easy to do so. The easiest time and the best time to win hearts for Christ is while they are young. Take good care of the lambs and the farmer will have beautiful sheep. Take good care of the children, the little boys and girls, lead them in the right way, bring them early to Christ, feed them on the bread of heaven, and the next generation will be a generation of sober, Christian men and women.

## Opinions About Christ

A proper conception of the Christ of God is an essential element in every Christian's life. If we are to live the Christ-life it is important that we should have right opinions about him. We are living in an age of practical things. It is fashionable to decry "doctrines" and clamor for the practical things which touch our every day life. It is boldly announced that it does not matter what a man believes so he is sincere in what he believes. This is a pernicious doctrine. We too believe in a practical religion, a religion that helps us in our every day life, that makes us better, happier, wiser, stronger, and more useful, but we make a plea for a practical religion that rests on *sound doctrine as its foundation*. "Doctrines are the great foundation on which practical duties rest." We have very little faith in any system of morality or of religion, however practical, that does not rest on a proper conception of Christ as its foundation. It is a house built on the sand and will not endure the wrecks of time. A merely human Christ may furnish a fine example and noble teaching, but if he is human only there will come a time of trial, perplexity, temptation, sorrow and death, when we must turn away from him as from every other human friend. It is a matter of great importance therefore whether we have faith in a human or in a divine Christ. A man's faith determines his life and actions. He is responsible for his beliefs as he is for his actions. The one determines the other. A wrong faith is as inexcusable as a wrong act. Thinking, believing, acting—these follow each other in natural order, and if the one is wrong the other will be also. It becomes a matter therefore of infinite importance that we should have right conceptions or opinions of Christ. It is a personal matter. When the question of doctrine has been settled, then comes that other equally important question, "What is Christ to you?" Is he

your personal Savior, your friend, your Lord? Can you turn to Galatians 2:20, and say, "He died for me, placing your finger at the same time on the personal me? A mere opinion about Christ is not sufficient; what you believe about Christ will not save you; only a personal, living faith, in a personal, living Christ will do that. Study Christ, believe Christ, obey Christ, live Christ. Thus only can you claim the promise of a full salvation.

## Only A Splutter

We once heard of a man who went insane and then declared that everybody else was insane and that he was the only sane man. So is the man who turns away from the faith and imagines all the world is following him, and only the ignorant and superstitious cling to the old land marks. An *exchange* contains the following which is to the point:

Occasionally a man who has occupied a position of some prominence in the church changes his mind in regard to essential truth, makes a little flutter, breaks away from his positions, and thinks that he is about to revolutionize the religious world. In only a little while he finds that this is a mistake. He is soon lost sight of and forgotten, while the church goes on with its great work of bringing souls to Christ. A dissatisfied fish leaped out of the river, and said that many other fish felt just as he did about it. The river flowed on, the great schools of fish went on their way and the foolish experimenter soon gasped his last upon the sands.

## Give It the Right Name

If our habits were always called by their right name, many people would cut loose from habits which, as they are known by society, are regarded as virtues. Mr. Moody once said to a lady who came to him, asking how she might be delivered from the habit of exaggeration, to which she was very prone. "Call it lying, madam," was the uncompromising answer, "and deal with it as you would with any other temptation of the devil." That was good advice, and if the habit of taking a little wine, and that disease known as "kleptomania," and other acts were given their proper names, those afflicted would make an effort to get rid of them. If, instead of saying a bank cashier is "short in his accounts," we would say he is a thief, as he really is, and so deal with him, perhaps there would be less "short accounts."

## A Means of Grace

A sensational, and very often an unclean daily paper can now be found in nearly every home, and there is no telling the amount of mischief it does, particularly where there are young people who are just forming the reading habit, and gaining their first vivid impressions of the world. How different is the mission and the work of a